



South Carolina Wing Civil Air Patrol
United States Air Force Auxiliary

5 July 2006

CIVIL AIR PATROL FORMS NEW FLIGHT AT THE ANDERSON REGIONAL AIRPORT

Civil Air Patrol members in the Anderson area are establishing a local unit at the Anderson Regional Airport, with operations beginning in September, 2006.

The unit will be based at a hanger located at the airport. These facilities were made possible through the efforts of Holt Hopkins, Transportation Manager and John Ferguson, Airport Manager.

The Civil Air Patrol will provide homeland security, emergency services, aerospace education, and cadet programs for Anderson County and its citizens.

The **Civil Air Patrol (CAP)** is the official civilian auxiliary of the United States Air Force (USAF). CAP is a benevolent entity dedicated to education and national service. It is a volunteer organization with a strongly aviation-minded membership that includes people from all backgrounds and occupations. It performs three key missions: emergency services (including search and rescue), aerospace education for youth and the general public, and cadet programs. CAP is recognized as an IRS 501(c) 3, not for profit, corporation.

Aerospace Education Program

Civil Air Patrol's Aerospace Education Program serves the CAP cadet and senior member population as well as the general public. Education for members includes formal, graded courses about all aspects of aviation, including flight physics, dynamics, history, application, and others. Courses cover the space program as well as new technologies that make advances in aviation and space exploration possible. There are several programs for CAP pilots to improve their flying skills and earn FAA ratings.

Through outreach programs, CAP helps school teachers integrate aviation and aerospace into the classroom, providing seminars, course materials, and sponsorship of the National Congress on Aerospace Education. CAP members also provide their communities with resources for better management of airports and other aviation-related facilities, and they promote the benefits of such facilities.

Cadet Aerospace Education

The CAP Cadet Program has a mandatory aerospace education program; in order to progress, a cadet must take courses and tests relating to aviation. Cadets also have educational opportunities through guest speakers, model building, and actual flight in gliders and powered aircraft.

Emergency Services

There are several Emergency Services areas that the Civil Air Patrol covers. The principal categories include Search and Rescue missions, Disaster Relief, Humanitarian Services, and Air Force Support. Others, such as Homeland Security and Counterdrug Operations, are becoming increasingly important.



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Search and Rescue

Civil Air Patrol is arguably best known for its Search and Rescue (SAR) activities. CAP now flies about 95 percent of inland SAR missions directed by the Air Force Rescue Coordination Center (AFRCC) at Langley Air Force Base, Virginia. Outside of the continental United States, CAP directly supports the Joint Rescue Coordination Centers in Alaska, Hawaii, and Puerto Rico. CAP is credited with saving an average of 100 lives per year.

Disaster relief

CAP is particularly active in disaster relief operations, especially in hurricane-prone areas such as Florida and Louisiana. CAP aircrews and ground personnel provide transportation for cargo and officials. CAP aircrews often provide aerial imagery to emergency managers, in order to help them assess damage. In addition, squadrons and Wings often donate manpower and leadership to local, state, and federal disaster relief organizations during times of need. In late 2004, several hurricanes hit the southeastern part of the United States, Florida being the worst damaged. CAP was instrumental in providing help to areas that were hit.

Humanitarian Service

The Civil Air Patrol conducts Humanitarian Service missions, usually in support of the Red Cross. CAP aircrews transport time-sensitive medical materials, such as blood and human tissue, when other means of transportation (such as ambulances) are not practical or possible. Following the September 11 terrorist attacks on the World Trade Center in New York City, all general aviation was grounded. The first plane to fly over the destroyed World Trade Center was a CAP aircraft transporting blood.

Air Force support

CAP performs several missions that are not combat-related in support of the United States Air Force. Specifically, this includes damage assessment, radiological monitoring (particularly over areas such as Yucca Mountain), and transportation of officials, communications support, and low-altitude route surveys.

The SC Wing operates a fleet of aircraft and vehicles. Currently we have assigned 6 Cessna 172's, 4 Cessna 182's including a new 182 (T) G 1000 Glass Cockpit, 1 MT-7-35 Maule, 1 L23 Glider, 22 ground vehicles, and 1 Mobile Communications Center. Aircraft are rotated on a monthly basis between units.

We will be conducting an open house and membership drive soon. Information is available at www.scwg.cap.gov

Ralph Driver

South Carolina Wing
Civil Air Patrol
(864) 617-8898
email: scdc@scwg.cap.gov